Gowdanahalli Inscription of Raja Madakari Nayaka of Chitradurga -Reconsidered

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Summary:

The stone epigraph at Gowdanahalli in Hiriyur taluk of Chithradurga district was edited and published by Mr. B. L. Rice in Epigraphia Carnatica, Vol. Xl (Chitradurga District, 1903, Hr. 53, A. D. 1756). The record is read as the maha-nayaka-charyya Kamagetti Kåsturi Medakeri Nayaka's grandson, Kasturi Dugappa Nayaka's son, Raja Medakeri Nayaka, granted the village of Gowdanahalli in the Hiriyur Sime of the kingdom he was ruling, for the annachatra-matha, established at Hiriyur. The inscription registers this gift.

Mr. Rice, in his Introduction to this volume (p. 29), has given the genealogical account of this family and also the details he could have from the inscriptions, and he has readily admitted that he could not vouch its accuracy in every particular. He has attempted to trace that RajaMadakari Nayaka, the last ruler of Chitradurga was the son of one Dugappa Nayaka, who was the son of Madakari Nayaka, who ruled from A. D 1721 to 1730, with the help of the inscription mentioned above.

Mr. R. N. Saletore, in his article 'The Genealogy of the Madakari Nayakas of Chitradurga (Journal of the University of Bombay, Vol. VIII, Part 4, January 1940, pp. 3-17), has seen the inscriptions and other references available, and, set down, provisionally, the reconstructed genealogy of the Nayaks. 'Dugapa' has occupied his place in it, described as the father of the last ruler, i. e. , Raja Madakari Nayaka. An attempt has been made here to establish that the name 'Dugappa Nayaka' is not connected to Chitradurga history, and now it is certain that it was wrongly deciphered by Mr. Rice for the name 'Rangapa Nayaka'.

Now the present reading has clarified that Raja Madakari Nayaka was the son (or the successor) of Rangappa Nayaka, and not of Dugappa, and Gowdanahalli village was granted to annachchatra-matha at Hiriyur in the name of his mother, Obamma Nagati, wife of Hire Madakari Nayaka (A. D. 1721-1748) and the mother of Kasturi Rangappa Nayaka (II) (A. D. 1749-1754). After the latter's death, she, with the State, elected Raja Madakari Nayaka, a boy of 12 years, and the son of Todalu Dharamappa Nayaka of Janakallu-durga (Hosadurga taluk),. to

the throne of Chitradurga, and continued her administration (sarvadhikara) for two years. (A. D. 1754-1756) on his behalf. She has been referred to in the Horakeredevara Pura (Holalkere taluk) inscription (A. D. 1754) as the mother (tayi) (Mr. Rice has again misread this. as kayi. see E. C., vol.XI, HI. 54) of Kasturi, Rangappa Nayaka (II) and Raja Madakari. Nayaka. She died in A. D. 1756. The original inscribed slab is broken into two pieces and it is kept in front of the village gateway a few letters of the record in the middle are lost.